



## HOWARD COUNTY TOURISM NEWS

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### Tourism's SOIREE ...Rendezvous en Provence and... **Dancing with Dazzling Howard County Stars**

*Ellicott City, MD (April 15, 2009 )*—Howard County Tourism invites you to our annual fundraiser –SOIREE—a Rendezvous en Provence on TUESDAY, June 2nd, 2009 at five o'clock in the tented gardens of historic Belmont Conference Center. The Tourism Team, its Board of Directors and dedicated SOIREE committee promise you an evening of Howard County's best food, wine, microbrews and more. SOIREE's guests will be transported to the French countryside for a sensational evening with a fantastic silent and live auction showcasing great weekend getaways and regional travel packages.

SOIREE's signature entertainment is the immensely popular *Dancing with Dazzling Howard County Stars*. Four Howard County celebrity couples have agreed to duel on the dance floor for Tourism. The four daring, dashing and dazzling celebrity couples represent different components of the tourism industry such as non-profits, restaurants, transportation and retailers. The winner will be selected by audience applause as reflected in the applause-o-meter by Pixel Workshops. Of note, 10% of the total SOIREE proceeds go toward a scholarship for a Howard Community College Hospitality & Culinary Arts Management student named after the winning couple of *Dancing with Dazzling Howard County Stars*. With the help of Arthur Murray Dance Studio lessons, you can watch the celebrity couples transform from tourism leaders in non-profits, restaurants, transportation and retailers to SOIREE's Dancing Stars with YouTube videos [www.visithowardcounty.com](http://www.visithowardcounty.com).

Guests who purchase tickets to SOIREE will receive a complimentary \$25.00 gift certificate for The Elkridge Furnace Inn in the mail. SOIREE special (4) ticket package price of \$275.00 (a saving of \$45.00) are a nice price break in these economic times.

#### **SOIREE 2009 Dancing with Dazzling Howard County Stars & their presenters are**

**Joe & Mary Barbera, AIDA Bistro & Wine Bar**

*Presented by Jordan's Steakhouse & Howard Community College*

**Mary & Dan Esmond, Abbington Home**

*Presented by Town Creek Landscaping and Construction, IP Data Systems , Inc, Rsignia, Inc. & Anonymous*

**Matt & Alison Eyre, Bus, Tour & Travel**

*Presented by Eyre Bus, Tour & Travel, Turf Valley Resort & Toby's Dinner Theatre of Columbia*

**Brock & Julie Yetso, Ulman Cancer Fund for Young Adults**

*Presented by The Columbia Triathlon Association*

**PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS**

AIDA Bistro & Wine Bar  
Alexandra's Restaurant at Turf Valley Resort  
Belmont Conference Center  
Cacao Lane  
Crab Shanty  
Elkridge Furnace Inn  
Ellicott Mills Brewing Company  
Howard Community College Culinary Arts Department  
Jordan's Steakhouse  
The King's Contrivance  
Rams Head Tavern  
Ranazul  
The Rumor Mill  
Sweet. a bakery & cafe  
Tersiguel's French Country Restaurant  
Victoria Gastro Pub  
Waterside Restaurant in the Sheraton Columbia Town Center Hotel

**THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:**

Belmont Conference Center

**SUNFLOWERS**

Columbia Triathlon  
Eyre Bus, Tour & Travel, LTD  
Howard Community College  
Howard County General Hospital  
IP Data Systems, INC  
Jordan's Steakhouse  
Maryland Life Magazine  
Toby's Dinner Theatre of Columbia  
Rsignia, Inc.  
Town Creek Landscaping & Construction  
Turf Valley Resort  
Anonymous

**LAVENDAR**

Arris, a Design Studio, Inc.  
Arthur Murray Dance Studios  
Abbingdon Home  
Belmont Conference Center  
Elkridge Furnace Inn  
Indigo Ink  
pixel workshop  
Select Event Rentals

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**Tourism's SOIREE ...Rendezvous en Provence...  
MEET THE DAZZLING DANCING STARS...**



**JOE AND MARY BARBERA (AIDA Bistro & Wine Bar)**

**Presented By:** Jordan's Steakhouse & Howard Community College

**Tell us something interesting about yourselves?**

We met on the Chicago Northwestern train while commuting to downtown Chicago, MANY years ago. Our families lived only 3 miles apart in the same hometown of Glenview, Illinois. Not only are we Midwesterners but also die-hard Cubs fans.

We have five children ranging in age from 26 to 5 years old. Our oldest daughter became engaged over the holidays and we are looking forward to practicing our dance steps for the celebration next October.

We own AIDA Bistro & Wine Bar.

We think Howard County Tourism rocks!

**In your life (until SOIREE) tell us about your favorite dancing moment (prom, wedding, other?)**

In High School, "sock hops" were the rave. We'd dance to the local live band "Chicago" (before lip synching)

**Who is your favorite dancer, dancing scene from a movie / musical, etc:**

Joe doesn't like musicals, but Mary loved Sound of Music.

**Why on earth did you decide to do SOIREE (great cause, great fun, bought new shoes, Tourism begged you to...?)**

Rachelina viewed us tripping over each other on the dance floor of last years' Restaurant Association Gala. She thought we could use the lessons.

Rachelina made us an offer we couldn't refuse.

Joe is on the Howard County Tourism Board and active with the Tourism Restaurant Weeks.

All of the above!

**What will make your performance DAZZLE?**

Our smiles and deft moves.

**Who will be cheering, clapping for you?**

Da family, friends and anyone else that we can pay to come and cheer us on!



**MARY & DAN ESMOND (Abbingtton Home)**

**Presented by:** Town Creek Landscaping and Construction, IP Data Systems, Inc, Rsignia, Inc. & Anonymous

**Tell us something interesting about yourselves?**

Mary owns a retail furnishings and design store, Abbingtton Home, in Howard County. Mary has volunteered in many fundraising and volunteer roles in our community, and was recently nominated to the board of trustees for Howard Community College beginning July 1st, 2009. She is the former President of the Preakness Celebration and remains on that board. She also serves as the age group coordinator for girls 10 basketball in Western Howard County and coaches one of her daughter's team. A 17-year cancer survivor!

Dan is a former U.S. Secret Service agent on the VP detail and of course, the rest is a secret! He is currently a special agent with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and

President of the National Anthem Celebration Foundation, Inc., to promote and celebrate the 200th anniversary of the writing of our National Anthem at Fort McHenry in 2014, through events and education.

We have two daughters, Caroline, age 10, and Georgia, age 8, who are actively involved in extra curricular activities including Howard County sports. A favorite vacation spot is Maui, Hawaii where our good friends (now best friends!) live.

**In your life (until SOIREE) tell us about your favorite dancing moment (prom, wedding, other?)**

Our wedding.....we practiced and practiced and the dip was successful! On a bad note, he dropped me many years later at another event!

**Who is your favorite dancer, dancing scene from a movie / musical, etc:**

We love everything you see on Dancing with the Stars, in old movies, and even current styles like Beyonce "Single Ladies".

**Why on earth did you decide to do SOIREE (great cause, great fun, bought new shoes, Tourism begged you to...?)**

You picked Mary's birth date for your soiree and she twisted Dan's arm! After all, what better way to turn one year older than working hard toward another goal in life!

**What will make your performance DAZZLE?**

Likely our passion for hard work and reward, fun, excitement and the element of surprise...we recognize that we owe it to your paying guests to get some entertainment value and hope to WOW them or at least, make them laugh!

**Who will be cheering, clapping for you?**

Why don't you know? The event is already sold out! (*tourism editor note –Soiree not soldout just yet, Belmont has 80 acres to fill with guests!*)



**MATT & ALISON EYRE (Eyre Bus, Tour & Travel)**

**Presented by:** Eyre Bus, Tour & Travel, Turf Valley Resort & Toby's Dinner Theatre of Columbia

**Tell us something interesting about yourselves?**

Matt is the Vice President at Eyre Bus, Tour and Travel, a family owned business celebrating over 60 years. As many of you know, Matt is always "On top of the world" and his company was awarded "Motor coach Operator of the Year". Matt however is only allowed to drive the bus in the parking lot. Matt is the former President of the Board for the office of Howard County Tourism and currently sits on the Board of Directors for the Howard County Chamber of Commerce.

Alison is an IT Recruiter and Partner at Strategic Resource Group, an IT staffing firm in Columbia MD. She is very involved in the Armed Forces Communications Electronics Association (AFCEA) organization and is the Deputy Treasurer of the Central MD Chapter. She was a competitive gymnast in her younger years and played Field Hockey and Lacrosse at Randolph-Macon where Alison and Matt met. Alison's brother is an actor/movie star and is one of the leads in a new 3D movie "My Bloody Valentine" which premiered in January. Formerly, Jack McPhee on Dawson's Creek., and he is likely to be present at Soiree to cheer his sister on and celebrate their Dad's birthday.

We have two VERY energetic daughter's, August, age 3 and Brinkley, age 2.

**In your life (until SOIREE) tell us about your favorite dancing moment (prom, wedding, other?)**

Dancing together at Matt's fraternity house at R-MC doing the pretzel to any song that was played with a couple of six packs under our belt.

**Who is your favorite dancer, dancing scene from a movie / musical, etc:**

Elaine from Seinfeld. She got the moves!

**Why on earth did you decide to do SOIREE (great cause, great fun, bought new shoes, Tourism begged you to...?)**

We want to support Howard County Tourism and its initiatives, have fun, and would like a shot at keeping the "dancing with the stars" trophy in the family.

**What will make your performance DAZZLE?**

Sizzling hot moves, fancy outfits, and a passionate twist.

**Who will be cheering, clapping for you?**

Hopefully everyone. Especially our two daughters who are getting a live video feed.



## **BROCK & JULIE YETSO (Ulman Cancer Fund for Young Adults)**

**Presented by:** Columbia Triathlon Association

### **Tell us something interesting about yourselves?**

- Newlyweds! November 8, 2008
- Both born and raised in Howard County and families still live here
- Both goalkeepers and first met on a soccer field in Howard County years ago and reconnected on the one of the same fields some 20 years later when they started dating together.
- Both played soccer in college – Julie (UCLA and Loyola of Baltimore), Brock (Virginia)
- Brock played in the NCAA National Championship in 1997 against – UCLA!...Julie was a goalkeeper there for their women's team at the time
- Both work in the cancer field – Julie's a Physician Asst. in Bone Marrow Transplant Unit at Univ. MD Cancer Center, Brock runs the Ulman Fund
- We both do triathlons and marathons – We've done a couple ½ Ironman distance races together and Brock did a full Ironman in 2007. Ran Boston Marathon together
- Probably the youngest couple in the competition?

### **In your life (until SOIREE) tell us about your favorite dancing moment (prom, wedding, other?)**

Julie – as a kid she ran off the stage during a ballet recital

Brock – as a kid, he won a Michael Jackson break dance competition

Together – our first dance at our wedding....although we took lessons and planned to Wow everyone, once we walked on the floor in front of 225 of our closest friends and family, I everything we learned went out the window we stumbled around the dance floor – lets hope that doesn't happen at Soiree!

### **Who is your favorite dancer, dancing scene from a movie / musical, etc:**

Julie - Justin Timberlake

Brock – old school - Michael Jackson (before he opened up Neverland Ranch to the public – *Thriller* and *Beat It* days) now – Britney in her prime

### **Why on earth did you decide to do SOIREE (great cause, great fun, bought new**

**shoes, Tourism begged you to...?)**

Cause ahead of everything! We're both representing where we work – Univ. MD Cancer Center and Ulman Cancer Fund – so anything that will raise awareness for those causes. And, both being natives of the county, Howard Community College and Howard County Tourism are on our favorites list!

Of course though, Rachelina also kinda begged us into it. But, we spent money on dance lessons for our wedding and didn't really Wow people so this is our 2nd chance.

**What will make your performance DAZZLE?**

- Some luck
- A lot of practice
- A song and dance routine that is fresh, energetic, young and dazzling!

**Who will be cheering, clapping for you?**

Our sponsor – Columbia Triathlon Association – if Rob Vigorito and his team bring the same energy (and bull-horn) they bring to their world class events in the county, we're in good hands.

Fellow Triathletes & runners – when we're not practicing dancing or working to help people with cancer, we're on a bike, in a pool or running with friends. These are the people we meet at 6 am for early morning workouts – they've seen us at our worst so they'd better come out to see us at our best.

Our family and friends – both being natives of Howard County, we hope to bring a crowd of family and friends to show us some love! The County Executive – I run the foundation his family started...he'd better be on our side.

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**TOURISM...Having FUN is Serious Business!**

Howard County Tourism, Inc., a not-for-profit (501c6), membership-based organization is recognized and funded in part by generous grants from Howard County Government and the Maryland Office of Tourism Development as the official Destination Marketing Organization for Howard County, Maryland. Howard County's vibrant tourism and hospitality industry employs 8,000 people and pumps 16.1 million dollars in tax receipts into the County's general fund. Howard County Tourism's mission is to increase, develop and promote business and leisure travel to Howard County by featuring the county's unique sites, services, products and people. For more information contact Howard County Tourism or check out our website [www.VisitHowardCounty.com](http://www.VisitHowardCounty.com).

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